

PTO/SB08A (08-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)
Sheet 1 of 6

Application Number	09/973,645
Filing Date	10/9/2001
First Named Inventor	Robert B. Steffen
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	VTN 561

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
E.C.		3,808,178		Gaylord	04/30/1974	
		4,136,250		Mueller et al.	01/23/1979	
		4,139,513		Tanaka et al.	02/13/1979	
		4,153,641		Deichert et al.	05/08/1979	
		4,182,822		Chang	01/08/1980	
		4,189,546		Deichert et al.	02/19/1980	
		4,254,248		Friends et al.	03/03/1981	
		4,259,467		Keogh et al.	03/31/1981	
		4,260,725		Keogh et al.	04/07/1981	
		4,261,875		LeBeouf	04/14/1981	
E.C.		4,276,402		Chromacek et al.	06/30/1981	
		4,327,203		Deichert et al.	04/27/1982	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				
E.C.			JP 61-123609			11/06/1986		
			WO 91/10155			07/11/1991		
			WO 96/31792			10/10/1996		

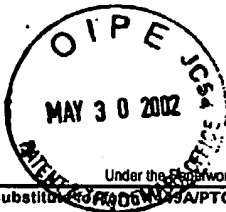
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	9/04
-----------------------	--	--------------------	------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



PTO/SB/08A (08-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 2 of 6	Application Number	09/973,645
	Filing Date	10/9/2001
	First Named Inventor	Robert B. Steffen
	Group Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
	Attorney Docket Number	VTN 561

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
E.C.		4,341,889		Deichert et al.	07/27/1982	
		4,343,927		Chang	08/10/1982	
		4,355,147		Deichert et al.	10/19/1982	
		4,486,577		Mueller et al.	12/04/1984	
		4,495,313		Larsen	01/22/1985	
		4,543,398		Bany et al.	09/24/1985	
		4,605,712		Mueller et al.	08/12/1986	
		4,640,489		Larsen	02/03/1987	
		4,661,575		Tom	04/28/1987	
		4,680,336		Larsen	07/14/1987	
		4,703,097		Wingler et al.	10/27/1987	
		4,786,657		Hammar	11/22/1988	
		4,837,289		Mueller et al.	06/06/1989	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				

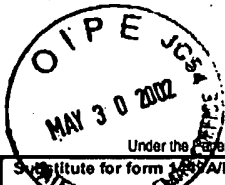
Examiner Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date Considered	9/04
-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------	------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



PTO/SB/08A (08-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 3 of 6	Application Number	09/973,645
	Filing Date	10/9/2001
	First Named Inventor	Robert B. Steffen
	Group Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
	Attorney Docket Number	VTN 561

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
P.C.		4,871,785		Froix	10/03/1989	
		4,889,664		Kindt-Larsen et al.	12/26/1989	
		4,954,586		Toyoshima et al.	09/04/1990	
		4,954,587		Mueller	09/04/1990	
		5,010,141		Mueller	04/23/1991	
		5,034,461		Lai et al.	07/23/1991	
		5,039,459		Kindt-Larsen et al.	08/13/1991	
		5,057,578		Spinelli	10/15/1991	
		5,070,215		Bambury et al.	12/03/1991	
		5,079,319		Mueller	01/07/1992	
		5,115,056		Mueller, et al.	05/19/1992	
		5,258,490		Chang	11/02/1993	
		5,260,000		Nandu et al.	11/09/1993	
		5,314,960		Spinelli et al.	05/24/1994	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				

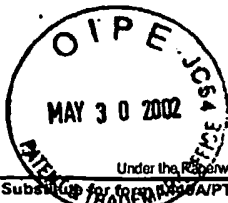
Examiner Signature	<i>Call</i>	Date Considered	9/10/4
-----------------------	-------------	--------------------	--------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



PTO/SB/08A (08-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 4 of 6	Application Number	09/973,645
	Filing Date	10/9/2001
	First Named Inventor	Robert B. Steffen
	Group Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
	Attorney Docket Number	VTN 561

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
P.C.		5,338,797		McGee et al.	08/09/1994	
		5,346,946		Yokoyama et al.	09/13/1994	
		5,358,995		Lai et al.	10/25/1994	
		5,371,147		Spinelli et al.	12/06/1994	
		5,387,632		Lai et al.	02/07/1995	
		5,387,662		Kunzler et al.	02/07/1995	
		5,401,508		Manesis	03/28/1995	
		5,451,517		Lai et al.	09/19/1995	
		5,488,579		Lai et al.	01/23/1996	
		5,539,016		Kunzler et al.	07/23/1996	
		5,710,302		Kunzler et al.	01/20/1998	
		5,714,557		Kunzler et al.	02/03/1998	
		5,760,100		Nicolson et al.	06/02/1998	
		5,776,999		Nicolson et al.	07/07/1998	
		5,789,461		Nicolson et al.	08/04/1998	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ³
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				

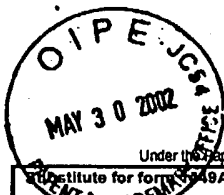
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	9/04
-----------------------	--	--------------------	------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



PTO/SB/08A (08-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Institute for Information Systems/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 5 of 6

Application Number	09/973,645
Filing Date	10/9/2001
First Named Inventor	Robert B. Steffen
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	VTN 561

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
E.C.		5,807,944		Hirt et al.	09/15/1998	
		5,908,906		Kunzler et al.	06/01/1999	
		5,944,853		Molock	08/31/1999	
		5,958,440		Burrell et al.	09/28/1999	
E.C.		5,962,548		Vanderlaan et al.	10/05/1999	
		5,965,631		Nicolson et al.	10/12/1999	
		5,981,615		Meijs et al.	11/09/1999	
		5,981,675		Valint, Jr. et al.	11/09/1999	
E.C.		5,998,498		Vanderlaan et al.	12/07/1999	
E.C.		6,020,445		Vanderlaan et al.	02/01/2000	
		6,039,913		Hirt et al.	03/21/2000	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ⁴
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				

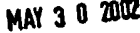
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	9/10/04
-----------------------	--	--------------------	---------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)
Sheet 6 of 6

Application Number	09/973,645
Filing Date	10/9/2001
First Named Inventor	Robert B. Steffen
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	VTN 561

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date Considered	9/04
-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------	------

1 Unique citation designation number. 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.